THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • JULY 27, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

49 LAKH 'WASTED' CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE IN INDIA, SAYS GOVT

Union minister Smriti Irani said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that 7% of 7 crore children measured in June were found to be wasted

5 DIED OF MALNUTRITION IN GUJ IN A WEEK

Wasting, defined as low weight-for-height, in children is a serious condition characterised by a rapid loss of weight and muscle mass. It is an indication of acute malnutrition. In the past week, five children in Gujarat's Ludbai village in Kutch district died of malnutrition. Alarmed by the deaths, the village organised a medical camp and of the 322 kids tested, 39 were found to be malnourished

1,25,707 MALNOURISHED KIDS IN THE STATE

- In March this year, Gujarat's woman and child development minister told the state Assembly that as many as 1,25,707 children in the state were found to be malnourished as on December 21, 2022 | P10
- Of these, 1,01,586 were underweight and 24,121 severely underweight
- Gujarat spends as much as ₹1,000 crore a year towards children's welfare

2.2%

OF 7 CRORE KIDS ACROSS INDIA MEASURED IN JUNE FOUND TO BE 'SEVERELY WASTED'

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Showdown time as Birla admits no-trust motion

Govt may push legislative agenda before it is taken up in Lok Sabha

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Opposition on Wednesday set the stage for a showdown in the Lok Sabha with Speaker Om Birla admitting a no-confidence motion against the Centre moved by Congress member from Guwahati Gaurav Gogoi.

The Opposition is way short of numbers to inflict any damage on the ruling coalition but hopes to get the optics right ahead of the Lok Sabha elections by coaxing Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak on the Manipur situation.

Birla said the date for the discussion and voting on the motion will be decided after holding talks with leaders of all political parties. As per convention, once admitted the discussion on the motion has to be held within 10 days.

However, sources said the government may take up the motion only toward the fag end of the session as it is looking to push through a clutch of legislations first. It has already managed to pass important legislations, such as the Multi-State Cooperatives Societies Bill, the Biological Diversity Bill and the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha. The session will conclude on August 11.

But leaders of the 26-party Opposition alliance, I.N.D.I.A, demanded that the Speaker immediately take up the motion for discussion after suspending all other business. "The tradition is that once the motion is accepted by the Speaker, all other business is suspended and discussion is initiated immediately," Congress member Manish Tewari said, adding that if 100 or more MPs support the motion, then it will be inappropriate to carry out any other business in Parliament.

The family of Hanglaimuan Vaiphei, an undergraduate student from Churachandpur who lost his life amid the ethnic violence in Manipur in May, mourn his demise | PTI

In all, there were two no-trust motions, one by the Congress and the other by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), which though is not part of the Opposition alliance.

This is the second no-confidence motion since the Modi government came to power in 2014. The first one was in 2018 by the Telugu Desam Party and backed by several other Opposition parties. The NDA defeated it 325-126.

Congress whip in the Lok Sabha, Manickam Tagore, said the Opposition was forced to move the motion as a last-ditch attempt, as the government had stonewalled their demand for a statement from the PM on Manipur. Another leader said that though the Opposition does not have the numbers, they will win the battle of 'perception and morality'.

The NDA had 331 on its side with the BJP alone contributing 303 to the tally in the Lok Sabha. The Opposition bloc has 144 and the BRS nine. Fence-sitters such as the YSRCP and BJD have 22 and 12 members, respectively. P10

SHOCKED AND HORRIFIED: U.S.

The US on Wednesday said it is "shocked and horrified" by the strip-parade video of two women in Manipur and supports the Indian government's efforts to seek justice for them. "We encourage a peaceful and inclusive resolution to the violence in Manipur," Vedant Patel, Deputy Spokesperson of the State Department said | P7

ABANDONED HOUSES TORCHED

Mobs set ablaze 30 abandoned houses and two buses in two separate incidents in Manipur. A mob of around 2,000 people torched the houses in the India-Myanmar border town of Moreh on Wednesday morning. Four others were also damaged. The houses belonged to Meiteis who left the place after violence broke out on May 3

LS passes contentious forest conservation bill

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the contentious Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill 2023 amid protests from environmental groups and dissent notes from the JPC members.

While the bill empowers the government to build "strategic linear projects for national importance or security" on forest land within 100 km from the international border, critics say the amendments will impact the conservation of forests.

The latest bill amends the existing Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA), making the Union government the sole authority to govern the country's forest.

The amendments give the Centre blanket exemption to acquire forest land. The government will be able to take over forest land for tourism, zoo, roads, rail, and defence infrastructure. Earlier, forest clearance from the designated authority was mandatory to acquire forest land.

Environmental organisations and civil society groups have been opposing the move saying it will spell doom for the country's forest resources and impact the livelihood of millions of people dependent on those resources.

The 31-member led joint parliamentary committee chaired by BJP MP Rajendra Agarwal had submitted its report on July 11, clearing all the amendments proposed by the environment ministry. Four Opposition MPs on the panel — Pradyut Bordoloi and Phulo Devi Netam (Congress), R Giri Rajan (DMK), and Jawahar Sircar and Sajda Ahmad (TMC) — expressed their dissent on the bill.

TRIAL RUN

METRO RUNS ON KR PURA-BYP STRETCH

The trial run between KR Pura and Baiyappanahalli, the crucial link on the Purple Line, was carried out successfully on Wednesday evening | P2

ED boss tenure plea back in SC

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court agreed to hear on Thursday the Centre's plea seeking modification of its July 11 order terminating the tenure of Enforcement Directorate's director Sanjay Kumar Mishra on July 31.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta mentioned the urgent plea seeking the ED director's continuance till October 15 before a bench led by Justice B R Gavai, urging it to list it before Friday. Following this, the bench agreed to hear the matter at 3.30 pm on Thursday.

The bench also took into consideration the Centre's contention that the Mishra's abrupt removal amid the ongoing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review will adversely impact national interests. The court was told that the ED director was engaged in preparation of documents and fulfilling other requirements for the FATF evaluation.

Why FATF review is important for India

India is compliant with the FATF norms. However, during review, if any gaps are found in the country's readiness to combat money laundering, it may lead to adverse comments and impact its rating, the govt argues

FATF is a global body that leads action to tackle money laundering and terror financing.

The July 11 order of the Supreme Court had quashed the Centre's third extension to the ED director. Terming the extension illegal, a bench of judges Gavai, Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol gave him time till July 31 to demit office.

The Centre's plea seeking extension of Mishra's tenure says the FATF evaluation is at a crucial stage. It said the assessment team is expected to visit India in November. "At such a critical juncture, it is essential to have an individual who is well acquainted with the overall status of money laundering investigations and proceedings across the country and also the intricacies of the procedures, operations and activities of the investigating agency, at the helm of affairs at the Directorate of Enforcement," the application added.

Kadugolla custom: Baby living in tent falls sick, dies

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Tumakuru

THE baby girl, who along with her mother, was forced to live in a makeshift tent as part of an age-old custom of Kadugolla community at Mallenahalli Gollarahatti near here, died on Sunday.

As per the custom, the mother and newborn are kept away from the rest of the family and forced to live separately for almost three months. This is because the postpartum and menstruation period is considered "impure" for the community's deity.

Vasantha and her baby girl have been living in a makeshift tent since July 14. The baby developed respiratory complications and was shifted to the district general hospital.

Even after the death of the baby, Vasantha was forced to live in the tent. "This age-old custom in Kadugolla community could be stopped only through awareness and consultations. We managed to convince the family members to take the mother home during our visit on Wednesday. We will conduct awareness camps to stop such age-old customs," tahsildar Siddesh M told *TNIE*.

He led a team of officials to the hamlet and held deliberations with the members of the community.

On June 22, Vasantha gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl. The baby boy died after delivery. Vasantha and the baby girl were treated as inpatients till July 14. After their discharge from the hospital, they were forced to live in the tent.

'VOYEURISM'

FIR against three students, Udupi college

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

MALPE police registered an FIR on Tuesday night against three girls studying at a paramedical college in Udupi in connection with the alleged voyeurism. The institute was also booked. Police sources said that director of Netra Jyothi Institute of Allied Health Sciences Rashmi Krishna Prasad had acknowledged that the incident had taken place. She had acknowledged this while addressing reporters and gave reasonable confirmation that the girls committed a cognizable offence.

Malpe police faced widespread criticism for the manner in which they handled the case. They were forced to take up a suo motu case. The episode snowballed into a major issue after right wing activist Rashmi Samant tweeted about the alleged police inaction on Tuesday.

Malpe PSI Sushma Bhandary filed the FIR against Shabhanaz, Alfiya and Aleema, students of Optometry Diploma at Netra Jyothi Institute of Allied Health Sciences, Kadekar, Udupi. Bhandary said she visited the institute on July 20 after learning about the protest by students against the three girls, who allegedly shot a video of a second year diploma student in the washroom on July 18. P4

Floods: CM to visit dists from Monday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah will start his tour of districts from Monday to review the flood situation and agricultural activities.

"Most probably, I will start my tour on Monday to Mangaluru, Udupi, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru districts," he told reporters after holding a video conference on Wednesday with deputy commissioners and chief executive officers (CEOs) of zilla panchayats on the flood and drought situation in the state.

"Sixty-four people died between January 1 and July 25. These deaths, due to disasters, could have been avoided if the district administrations had been alert," he said during the five-hour meeting.

He directed the officials of agriculture, rural development, revenue, police and other departments to work in tandem. He asked the DCs to spend grants available with them on emergency works.

"Take immediate action to complete emergency works. If you need more funds, send a proposal without any delay," he told them. CONTINUED ON: P4

Train services were disrupted due to landslides between Castle Rock and Caranzol railway stations near the Karnataka-Goa border on Wednesday | EXPRESS

Oppn marshals forces for Delhi ordinance face-off

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WITH the government set to bring the NCT bill to replace the controversial Delhi services ordinance in Parliament, the Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) issued whips directing their Rajya Sabha members to be present in the House on Thursday.

The BRS whip also directed its members to vote against the bill.

The Congress, in its three-line whip, said, "Very important issues will be taken up for discussion in the Rajya Sabha tomorrow. All Members of the Congress Party in the Rajya Sabha are requested to kindly remain present in the House from 11.00 am onwards till the adjournment of the House on Thursday, July 27, 2023, without fail and support the party stand. This may be treated as most important."

The NCT Bill seeks to restore the Lt Governor's control over transfers and postings of bureaucrats in the national Capital. According to reports, the Union Cabinet approved the legislation in a meeting on Tuesday chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The ordinance has been a major bone of contention between the AAP government in Delhi and the Centre.

MINIMISING WASTE

G20's circular economy coalition of 39 corporate biggies kicks off today

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA
@ Chennai

IN what could be one of the biggest achievements of this year's G20 under India's presidency, 39 global corporate giants have forged an industry coalition to boost circular economy, which is a system to reuse and regenerate materials that minimise waste. While governments will act as catalysts, the coalition will be run by the industries themselves.

Called the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC), it will be launched in Chennai on Thursday at the ongoing 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.

The 39 corporate biggies are from 11 different countries. Eighteen of them are from India, including Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Aditya Birla Group and JSW Steel. Global FMCG brands like Coca-Cola, Unilever and Nestle; electrical equipment major Siemens from Germany; and Japan's Kai Corporation are part of the coalition.

Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary in the ministry, told this newspaper that till now only individual companies were taking some initiatives to promote circular economy. "This is the first time governments are pushing the global corporate houses to form a coalition for global good. We hope these 39 firms will convince others and more companies would come on board. RECEIC will be run by the industries. Governments will only give guidance and policy push."

Seven foreign ministers to join inaugural event

Seven foreign ministers — four from G20 countries Italy, Canada, European Union and France and three invitees, the UAE, Mauritius and Denmark — will participate in the launch of the RECEIC

On India's efforts to tackle plastic waste, he said the Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) targets was being proactively implemented. "During 2021-22, about 41 lakh tonnes of plastic waste was generated in India, of which 30 lakh tonnes were allocated to 2,000-odd registered recyclers and plastic waste processing units," he said. The ministry is in the process of framing EPR guidelines for used oil and end-of-life vehicles as well.

Satyendra Kumar, director at the ministry, said so far about 2.6 million tonnes worth of EPR certificates have been generated by plastic waste processors (PWPs), which includes recyclers, waste to energy plants etc. On the flip side, as many of 1.51 million tonnes of those certificated have been purchased by PIBOs (Producers, Importers and Brand owners) against 2022-23 obligations. CONTINUED ON: P5